NEW YORK HERALD.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT,
PROPRIETOR AND EDITOR.

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Volume XVIII No. 197

AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.
BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery -The Robbers - Wrece

BECADWAY THEATRE, Breadway-Incland As II Is O'R JESTRA-ILIEN TRUSH AND SWEEDISH NIGHT REALE.

NIBLO'S, Breadway-Crown Diamonds,

NATIONAL THEATRE, Canaham street-Uncla Tom

AMERICAN MUSEUM-Afternoon-White's Serena mas. Evening-Doners's Troups of Acting Monkeys. Dogs and Goats. MADISON AVENUE-Afternoon and Evening-Fransom's Colossal Hippodrome.

CHRISTY'S OPERA HGUSE, 471 Breadway - ETHIOPIAN ELEMIES BY CHRISTY'S OPERA TROUPS.

WOOD'S MINSTERES. Wood's Musical Hall, 444 Bread

WOOD'S MINSTRELS, Wood's Musical Hall, 444 Broadbay-Evriopian Minstructor.

BUCKLEY'S OPERA HOUSE, 539 Broadway-Buckley's Ersiopian Overa Troups.

GEORANA, 596 Broadway—Paronama of the Mas

New York, Monday, July 18, 1853.

Halls for Europe.

THE NEW YORK WEEKLY HERALD.

The royal small steamship America, Capt. Laug, will
have Boston on Wednesday, at 12 o'clock, for Liverpool.

Subscriptions and advertisements for any edition of the
NEW YORK HERALD will be received at the following places
to Europe:—

LIVERPOOR.—John Hunter, No. 2 Paradise street.
LOHDON—Edward Sandford & Ce., Cornhill.

Wm. Thomas & Co., No. 19 Catharine street
PARM—Livingston, Wells & Co., Rue de la Bourse.

B. H. Revoll, No. 17 Rue de la Banque.

The European mails will close in this city at three s'elock to morrow afternoon.

The WHERLY HERLALD will be published at half-past nine

the Wester Hexald will be published at half-past nine o slock to morrow morning. Single copies, in wrappers, at a conce.

The News

We to-day publish a full account of the melancholy accident which happened to the steamboat Empire, while on her way from Troy to this city, last Saturday. Our special reporter states that seven persons are known to have been killed, besides which a large number were horribly scalded, some of whom will not probably survive. The Coroner of Poughkeepsie is holding an inquest upon the bodies and will make a strict investigation. We have commented at considerable length upon this lamentable occurrence in another article.

The last European intelligence brought out by the Arabia, and published in Thursday's paper, gave credence to the report that the Russian troops had actually invaded the Turkish territory, but nothing was said as to the strength of the army of invasion This rumor, it will be remembered, caused a great fluctuation in the prices of stocks on the Paris Bourse, although the market opened unusually firm a few hours previous to the receipt of the news. In confirmation of the important annunciation, we now learn from the newspaper agent at Liverpool, whose despatch, unfortunately, did not reach us till yesterday, that a few minutes before the Arabia left he received a telegraphic despatch, based on an extra issued by the London Times, stating that " an army of twelve thousand Russians entered Jassy on th 25th of June." This will cause the later advices, experted to-day by the steamship Franklin to be looked for with much anxiety. The coming news wil most likely draw aside the veil and enlighten us as to whether there will be a general European war or not.

Mr. Crampton, the British Minister, reached our city last evening, having arrived in Boston from Halifax in the morning. The expedition with which he travels rather indicates that the fishery troubles will be speedily arranged between himself and Secretary Marcy. Let us hope so, at all events.

The news which we to-day publish from Cuba and Mexico will be found to be of a very important and interesting nature. It comprises the statement of the three American sailors now imprisoned in the Moro under the charge of having formed part of the crew of the slaving bark Jasper, which, after landing its cargo on the island, was set on fire. The atement is addressed to the Secretary of State, who, we have no doubt, will take proper measures to secure justice to these our citizens. Parks, one of those whose names are subscribed to the document is from Palmyra. Wayne county, in this State. Atkins is a native of this city, and Freeborn is a native of Philadelphia. It is impossible to say what has become of the other Americans who were among the crew, namely, Wm. Radeliff, Wm. Hussey second mate, the boy Coles, and the cook, a black man, named Robinson. Our Havana correspondent suggests that most probably the first three were murdered to be got rid of, and that the pegro was sold among the slaves. This is by no means a vicient or irrational conclusion. The shipping master with whom these sailors shipped in this city were Messrs. Clarke and Dean. The captain is now we understand in New York or Brooklyn, and might perhaps corroborate in some measure the truth of the sailors' story. The slaver Lady Suffolk is at length in safe hands. We published a letter in last Monday's HERALD giving the whole particulars of the seizure of this notorious vessel, and now our Cuban intelligence comes to verify our previous announcement. In addition to the particulars of Mexican and Havana news, we give the translation of an article from the Diario de la Marina, in which wholesome counsel is given to the slaveholding States of the South. The whole of what we give from Mexico and Cuba to-day will be found particularly inter-

Late advices from Maranham state that the steam ship El Paraguay, insured in this city, had been condemned and ordered to be sold. It appears that she left that port on the 8th ult., but after being out two days sprung a leak, and was compelled to return. The passengers and crew were safe.

According to the last accounts from Mexico great distrust had been produced by the dishonoring of the Sloo drafts, and it is reported the agent despaired of carrying on the work. The most implacable opposition is still manifested to any and all propositions that may be made by the Americans for the Mesilla Valley. The Minister of Home Affairs, it is said, threatens to resign if the least concession is made to Governor Lane. The whole difficulty will probably be settled in the course of a few months. The inaugural address of the new Mexican Minister, delivered the other day, was of a conciliatory nature, and would incline one to the belief that the Mexican government is amicably disposed, whatever the people there may have to say to the contrary.

General Pierce is making preparations to visit

Old Point Comfort.

Read the account of the fight between two democratic candidates for Congress in Vicksburg, Miss.

The unprofitable example set by the softs and hards
of New York is being closely followed by disaffections among the democracy throughout different portions of the country. Where will it end?

Attention is directed to the description elsewhere given of many of the articles on exhibition at the Crystal Palace. The report will be found well

worthy of a perusal.

We elsewhere publish a very valuable and entertaining report of the Heral D Commissioner relative to Canada. It gives a graphic description of

the origin, character and appearance of the people, the fortifications and other sights worth seeing, &c., and will be read with great interest by the sage as well as the schoolboy.

Quite an imposing ceremony took place in Brooklyn yesterday, on the occasion of the laying of the corner stone of a new Catholic church. A full report of the proceedings is given on another page.

port of the proceedings is given on another page.

The annexed are merely the headings of a portion of the contents of to-day's inside pages:—Full Report of the Speech of Sir Charles Lyell at the Caystal Palace Banquet; Indignation Meeting of the Germans at Cincinnati; Character of the Sultan o'. Turkey; Description of the While Sulphur Signings; Speech of the Minister Resident from Bremen; Communications relative to Detentions on Railro als, and the Hibernian Society; List of the members already elected to the Thirty-third Congress; Coroners' Inquests; Obituary Notices; Police and Court Reports; Jersey City and Williamsburg Nows; Commercial and Miscelianeous Affairs, &c.

The Empire Explosion—Steamboo & Mass We showed, a few days ago, that though checked baggage on a railway was carried on the responsibility of the company, heads, legs and arms were entirely at the risk of the owners; a risk so considerable. in t'ae present state of the law, that railway travelling must involve a reckless spirit of adventure and a criminal disregard for one's own safety. We might safely have extended the rule to steamers, or at all vents to those steamers which ply on the Hudsen. They are speedily achieving a reputation which is searcely surpassed by that of the New Haven Rallroad. It stood higher, perhaps, when the owners and captains of the Reindeer and Henry Clay strewed the banks of the Hudson with the mutilated bodies of their victims; but if the exploits of last year were more striking and memorable, those of the current season have the advantage of numbers. At the present rate of extermination the palm of superiority in manslaughter will obviously appertain to 1853 The quality of the victims may be less illustrious: instead of merchants and professional men, they may be, in the words of one of the proprietors of the boats, "only firemen and boys;" but the absolute loss of human life will probably exceed that of any previous season. By the close of the navigation, statisticians will be enabled to inform us what percentage of the total number of passengers were killed or wounded by accidents on board the Hudson river steamers. Without anticipating their calculations we may safely assert their result will appal the most resolute mind.

A fortnight has hardly elapsed since one of the flues of the New World collapsed, and six persons were killed and several injured. We were then told that the accident could not have been foreseen; that boilers and machinery were in perfect order : that the boat had been struck by lightning &c., &c. The evidence in support of these various statements was exceedingly loose and unsatisfactory. Of all the witnesses whose testimony went to exculpate the captain. and owners that of Mr. Renwick, one of the United States Inspectors of Steamboats under Mr. Davis' new law, is the only one worth notice. This gentleman swore that, having entered upon the discharge of their functions on lst June, the Inspectors "had not reached" the New World by 1st July. They had spent thirty days in testing the machinery of boats and vessels whose power to injure was not one hundredth part of that of the New World. Thirty days had clapsed since they began their inspection, and during all this time they had not found a spare moment to visit a steamer in which several hundred lives were daily jecpardised-We are not aware what progress has since been made by the Inspectors; we presume, however. that they "had not reached" the Empire on Friday, and we should not be surprised to learn that the other Albany and Troy boats were likewise reserved for a more convenient period. A striking contrast might be drawn between the conduct of these gentlemen and that of the inspector and his aids for Ohio. There, by 1st February, the steamboat law was in full operation; steamers had been licensed, boilers had been condemned, engineers had been examined, and those who were inefficient or careless had been suspended. The results establish the thorough manner in which the work had been done. During the four months anterior to the 1st of June no aceident had occurred, and no lives had been lost; while during the corresponding months of 1852 no less than thirty-seven "accidents" had taken place in the same waters, involving a loss of four hundred lives. Equal conscientiousness and energy on the part of our Commissioners would have obtained like results. and would have saved the lives of some score of

Fifteen days after the explosion on board the New World the city is thrown into an uproar by the news of a similar accident on board the Empire. Reports, all equally inconsistent and improbable, reach New York, and the utmost anxiety prevails. It is stated that a sloop ran into the steamer, and, in consequence of the collision, an escape of steam, or, in plain terms, an explosion took place by which several lives were lost, and many individuals seriously injured. We shall not insult the intelligence of the reader by proving that a mere collision with a sloop could not cause the boiler to explode. Most glaring defects in the machinery must have previously existed, or so slight an accident could not have produced such a disaster. Nor shall we seriously inquire whether, on the night of Friday, the pilot of the Empire could not have seen the sloop in time to avoid the collision. Recklessness of the most inexcusable character, both on his part and on that of the watch on deck, can alone explain so unaccountable an occurrence. The details given in another column will shed light on the true causes of the disaster but whatever special pleas may be set up in their defence, it seems to us undeniable that the machinery must have been defective, the pilot unfit for his post, and the deck watch negigent. To these causes, and to these only, can we ascribe the loss of life and the bodily injuries which the "accident" has occasioned.

persons. But to complain is to waste time.

If we had any shadow of a reason for believing that steamboat proprietors share in the horror which such events arouse among the public-if we could bring ourselves to think that ordinary exections were made to prevent their occurrence our language would be that of sorrow and not of indignation. But neither in the discipline of the boats, nor in the conduct of their owners, can we discorn any trace of such feelings or intentions. It is a fact that on board the Isaac Newton all the staircases or gangways leading from the main to the promenade deck are closed at midnight, and romain closed all night. Passengers sleeping in the state-rooms above cannot descend to the cabin and those sleeping in the cabin cannot ascend to the promenade deck after twelve o'clock. Heat, close air, noise, they must endure as they can. It is "the rule of the loat" that the doors

be 'ocked, and clerks and waiters scoff at a request for fresh air and freedom. Should a collision take place, those below would probably be drowned before they could see what had happened. Should a fire break out, those above would not know of its occurrence until escape was impossible. It is an understood thing on board the Isaac Newton that passengers are prisoners, who must be locked in at night, and severely handled if they murmur. Can any one wonder that the slightest accident on board such boats involves a frightful sacrifice of human life?

This state of things is the natural and inevitable consequence of the scandalous impunity which the owners and captains of the Reindeer and Henry Clay have enjoyed. It will continue and increase, with the increase of traffic, until the steamboat inspectors do their duty, and steamboat proprietors and masters are severely punished for the recklessness they exhibit in the management of their business.

Mur leipal Taxes-Make the Merchants Pay. Enough has been said by tax payers upon the enormous burthens they are compelled to bear. The city has been abused till its name has become a byword. The resources of the English language have been drained to do justice to the extravagance of our rulers-the word alderman has actually passed into a proverbial designation of a reckless spendthrift Little has been done, however, to mitigate the practical effect of the present order of things Cases of wanton wastefulness have been brought to light, sources of revenue which are not turned to account have been indicated. plans of economy have been suggested, but no one that we know of has drawn particular attention to the disproportion existing between the number of persons who enjoy all the benefit of the city government, without contributing one cent to its support, and that of the actual rate payers. Proper inquiry in this quarter would probably elicit some curious facts. In illustration of one, we give below a table of merchants, traders and others, who do busine 8 in the city, and who, by residing without its limits, escape the taxes levied on its inhabitants. These people enjoy all the immunities and advantages attached to the quality of citizen-they spend the day in the city, appeal to its laws, rely on its protection, make money under its ægis, and derive a tangible benefit from the expenditure of the public funds. While they do all this, they claim an exemption from the taxes imposed upon the rest of us for the maintenance of our municipal government An idea of their numbers can be formed from the following list, which has been compiled, with considerable care and apparent accuracy. by Mr. Samuel Dunshee, of this city :-

LIST OF PERSONS DOING BUSINESS IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK, ECT RESIDING BRYOND THE REACH OF TAXATION, CARDULLY COMPUED FROM THE CITY DIRECTORY FOR 1852-4

| CARPOLLY COMPILED FROM THE CITY DIRECTORY FOR 1853-'4 | Persons reciding in Brocklyn. 4.077 | England. 109 |

Now if, as Mr. Dunskee fairly supposes, these 8,503 persons possess an average capital of five thousand dollars each, the total amount of money employed in business in New York, without contributing to the municipal expenses, will be found to be \$42,515,000. While a barber or sheemaker is bound to contribute his quota out of earnings which hardly suffice for his wants, here are forty-two millions of money invested in trade and merchandise in the city, which do not furnish a dime to the civic treasury. Indeed, we shall not run much risk of exaggerating if we double our informant's estimate; and taking into consideration the large number of persons whose capital exceeds one hundred thousand dollars, consider that the amount of money invested free of taxation in this city does not fall far short of one hundred millions.

It is time this matter were examined. The more we extend the surface on which taxation is exercised, the lighter becomes the pressure. And be the amount of money freed from tribute forty or one hundred millions, it is clear that its addition to the present rateable fund would be sensibly felt. It has long been a practice for wealthy men in Boston to settle in some country village before 1st May, in order to be taxed there on an estimate of their wealth far below the reality. A similar practice seems to be in usage here. Rich men can readily induce the municipal authorities of a country village to rate them at half their real capital, for the sake of swelling their receipts and encouraging wealthy settlers within their boundaries. The city, which is their real home, is thus defrauded of a material item in its receipts, and honest taxpayers are

obliged to make up the deficit. It does not need a financier or a statesman to devise a method of curing the evil. A tax levied by the city on mercantile transactions on exports and imports, on sales, on operations at the stock board, &c .- would make a material alteration in the municipal income, and might possibly prove a beneficial substitute for the present house tax. Offices instead of residences, or as well as residences, might be called upon to pay a tax. Other schemes will readily suggest themselves to the mind of one who examines the subject. The principle that all who share in the benefit of a city government ought to contribute to its maintenance cannot be disputed; it is a matter of wonder that it should have been practically ignored for so long without loud complaint. We trust that some of the city reformers will take up the matter.

EACK AGAIN AT WASHINGTON.—The President and his official suite, consisting of Mr. Guthrie. Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. Davis, Secretary of War, Mr. Cushing. Attorney General, and Mr. Sidney Webster, Private Secretary of the President, and others left this city about ten o'clock Saturday morning, and with the aid of special trains, arrived all safe and sound at Washington by ten in the evening.

Washington by ten in the evening.

We published, yesterday, the incidents of the journey to Philadelphia, and of the departure there homeward of the distinguished company; but as this return trip was performed with all possible quietness and despatch, its details were of course limited to the briefest official courses from point to point. And now, as Gen

Pierce and his cabinet, (excepting the Interior Secretary, who is in the interior,) are all back again at their posts, we shall expect some light on the important schedule of our foreign relations, before the government goes off upon another holiday excursion. It will be time enough for the Springs after the important ultimatum is determined, of peace or war.

THE ADMINISTRATION AND THE PACIFIC RAIL-ROAD.—It was believed by many intelligent persons at Washington, at the close of the last ession of Congress, that the Pacific Railroad bill was lost in the Senate because some of the over-cautious democratic friends of the measure were desirous first to ascertain where Gen Pierce stood in regard to this great enterprise. Some were confident that he would prove to be a warm advocate of the road : others were afraid that he would turn up a strict constructionist as hidebound as a North Carolina yearling after a hard winter, and that he might possibly veto the bill. A few, like Gen. Rusk, were manly enough to run all risks and do their duty; but the bill faired. Inded, it was understood at the time that the direct cause of its failure was the result of an application to General Pierce to interest himself in its behalf. He is said to have replied to this appeal, that he was elected President of the United States and not the

President of a railroad company.

Now, therefore, we are highly gratified to state to the American people, and to the "rest of mankind," that we have good reasons to believe that the administration is in favor of this Pacific Railroad as a great national work; and we should not be surprised if this important project were to be fully developed in the first annual message of General Pierce to Congress, at the opening of the session, in December next.

One of the most important disclosures from Secretary Guthrie, on this late Executive excursion, was his declaration, at various points on the journey to this city, that he is in favor of this Pacific Railroad, and an enthusiastic believer in its grand commercial, political and civilizing results. General Davis, the Secretary of War-a strict constructionist of the ultra Southern school on some other questionshas also boldly come forward in support of this mighty work. At the Metropolitan banquet he was particularly pointed upon the subject, and very satisfactorily disposed of all constitutional objections by insisting that this overland railway was needed as a national military road. The President himself, prudently and perhaps properly, has said nothing upon the question; but we presume that the cabinet is a unit, and that those members of it travelling with General Pierce knew the ground they were standing upon, and the views of their chief, in advocating so enthusiastically as they did this glorious project of a railroad across the breast of this continent from ocean to ocean.

We remember that General Davis, while a a member of the United States Senate, moved an amendment to one of the military bills before the body, the object of which was to introduce on the great plains and deserts of our Western territories an experimental caravan of camels from that somewhat similar country between Jerusalem and Egypt. We trust that, while co-operating with the active friends of the Pacific Railroad in advancing that great project to a practical beginning, he will not forget those camels. They would be valuable, if not invaluable, workers in the transportation of men, materials and provisions for the road.

Finally, since the official disclosures of Messrs. Guthrie and Davis in behalf of this Pacific Railroad, we feel vastly stronger in the presentiment, with the permission of Providence, of passing, before the expiration of next eight years, from New York to San Diego. or San Francisco. by railroad. Is not the administration with us, and have we not some twenty-five millions surplus money in the treasury? Clear the track!

Goop News.—The Washington Union is kind enough to give to the public the following ac j ceptable information:—

"It is understood that the Hon. James Buchanan, whose appointment as minister plenipotentiary of the United States at the Court of St. James has already been announced, will soon proceed to Loudon to assume the duties of his mission. We learn, also, that the Hon. Messrs. Soule, of Louisiana, Gaden, of South Carelina, Berland, of Arkansas, Green, of Missouri, and Bedinger, of Virginia, having nearly completed their preparatory arrangements, are about to proceed to their respective destinations, to enter upon the duties of the several missions confided to their charge."

That's why Governor Marcy could not attend the christening of the Crystal Palace. He was too much absorbed in the instructions to his diplomatic corps. Having at length given them their orders, including the cut and fashion of their garments, let us hope that their official transactions will be plain, smooth sailing, all the way through. Still, there is a smell of gunpowder in the air, and we should be ready for any emergency. Is the Premier ready?

Talk on 'Change.

Breadstuffs continued firm on Saturday, with sales of common brands State flour at \$5.06% a \$5.12%. Western white wheat sold at \$1.30, which was one cant per bushel higher. Sound, clean high mixed and yellow one, advanced to 70c. a 71c. Cotton sold to the extent of 1,100 bales. The market closed heary. Fork was firm, with light sales at \$15.56 a \$15.67 for mass.

Owing to the unfavorable news from Spain regarding the injury of the grape time raising were held at better prices, and a carge of 7,000 to 8,000 boxes were sold, to arrive, at \$2.70.

There was some demand for flour and grain for shipment to Havre, and considerable freight engagements were made for both on terms noticed in the city trails report. Later news from Europe was awaited with analety, which would soon be due by the Franklin at this port, and by a Conard steamer at Hallfax, for the political and commercial news would both be looked for with interest. After so long a period of general peace among the principal nations of Europe no one felt disposed to believe that was could or mould beak out on the Turkish question. Should a war by any possibility occur the interest of the United States would not fail to be affected – in some

respects beneficially, and in others predjadiciously.

No doubt our market for bread-tuffs would be largely benefitted, but cotton would be depressed in a corresponding or greater ratio. Our carrying trade and shipping interest might be besentted, but our trade with Russian ports would be interrupted. We imported large quantities of been and bempen manufactures, with from &c., from Russia, and sent considerable quantities of outton and other products in exchange, all of which would be interrupted by the blockade of the Russian ports. The probabilities were that we might lose as much, or more, than we should gain by a war in Europo; bence our good effices, wherever practicable, abound be exerted in favor of maintaining peace.

The late stramboat accidents require rigid investigation as to their cause, be, and the faithful execution of the laws, and the no less common occurrence of railroad accidents of late should admonable the Legislature of the secessity of early action in reference to proper measures for gual ding egainst them.

Army Intelligence.
We learn from authority that the general court mar

tial which assembled at Fort Daves worth on the 4th of Jone last, for the trial of Major Howe, up a charge preferred egainst him by Lieuterasts Pleasanlon, N. G. Evans, and company, of the Second Disgonous, have fully acquitted the Major of all the charges; and this too without the court waiting for any defeace on the part of the Major.

The Presidents of the United States as Public

The audiences who have listened to the various tified with the display of his oratorical powers; and the readiness with which he responded ex tempore to the speeches of welcome which were made to him by official dignitaries, during his late tour and visit to this city, attracted very general admiration. It was known that, as a leading member of the New Hampshire bar, and as a debater in Congress and other legislative bodies, Mr. Pierce had acquired distinction for the ability he had shown on many occasions; but the public were not prepared for this uncommon by pleasing and ready manner, fluency and address, which he has exhibited in his popular speeches since he has been elected to the Presidency. It may be said by severe critics that the President's style and manner is too theatrical for that of a person helding his dignified station, and that his speeches are wanting in originality and enlarged views; but all admit that he has perfect self-possession as a speaker, good taste in his selection of language adapted to his subject and his audience, with the advantages of a good personal appearance, and a grace ful and forcible manner of delivery-qualities which cannot fail to command popular favor.

It may be interesting to our readers to compare President Pierce with his predecessors in the character of public speakers, and we will, therefore, very briefly, take a retrospective view of the Presidents in this capacity.

Washington, it is well known, was no orator. He and Taylor were the only two of our Presidents who were not educated for either of the learned professions, both were brought up as farmer's sons; and both were early prepared for the military life for which they evinced a taste in their youth. Washington never commenced the study of the ancient class sics. It is even doubtful whether he received any in. struction in the principles of language. By practice, reading, and study, in after life, he gradually overcame his early defects in composition, till at length he wrote with accuracy, purity of idiom, and a striking appropriateness of phraseology and clearness of style. While in the army, after the French of ficers had joined the Americans, he bestowed some attention on the French language; but at no time could he write or converse in it, or indeed translate any pa. per. At the age of nineteen he was appointed Adjutant General, with the rank of Major, of the Virginia militia. His military propensities had increased with his years, and he prepared himself, by the study of books on the military art, for the life of

After his campaign at the West, Washington was elected a member of the Legislature of Virginia, in which body he held a seat for about fifteen years, previous to the war of the Revolution. His influence there was produced more by the soundness of his judgment, his quick perception, and his directness and sincerity, than by eloquence or art. He seldom spoke, never harangued, and it is not known that he ever made a set speech, or entered into a stormy de bate. But his attention was at all times awake, and was ever ready to act with decision and firmness. His practice may be inferred by the following counsel, in a letter to a nephew who had been chosen a member of the Assembly of Virginia:-He says-"The only advice I will offer, if you have a mind to command the atten tion of the house, is to speak seldom, but on important subjects, except such as properly relate to your constituents, and in the former case make yoursel perfectly master of your subject. Never exceed a decent warmth, and submit your sentiments with diffidence. A dictatorial style, though it may carry conviction, is always accompanied with disgust."

Washington was a member of the Virginia Convention of 1774, which body elected him one of the delegates of the first Continental Congress, which met at Philadelphia in September, 1774. He was also a delegate to the Congress of 1775, by which body he was chosen Commander in Chief of the Continental Army. The choice was by ballot, on the 15th of June, and Washington was unanimously elected. As soon as the result was ascertained th house adjourned. On the convening of Congress the next morning the President communicated to him officially the notice of his appointment, and he rose in his place, and signified his acceptance in the noble, modest, and appropriate reply which is so familiar to all readers of American history. This and his subsequent addresses to Congress, to the army, and to his fellow-citizens on various occasions, he doubtless previously prepared, as we have evidence that on receiving, in early life, a military appointment from the colonial Assembly of Virginia, of which he was a member, he was unable to reply impromptu, on the announcement to him, and was relieved from his embarrassment by the happy tact of the Speaker of the House, (Colo-

Mr. Jefferson remarks: "I served with General Washington in the Legislature of Virginia, before the Revolution, and during it, with Dr. Franklin, in Congress. I never heard either of them speak ten minutes at a time, nor to any but the main point which was to decide the question."

In the National Convention which framed the constitution of the United States Washington made two short speeches, one on taking his seat as President of the Convention, the other near the close of the session, asking the consent of the Convention to change the ratio of representation in Congress, which request was readily granted.

John Adams was equally distinguished as an advocate at the bar, a debater in legislative assemblies, a popular orator, an able writer and diplomatist, and an accomplished statesman. In the language of one of his enloyists. (Mr. J. E. Sprague, of Massachusetts.) " such services as his are never known to the public, or if known, only in history, when the actors of the day have passed from the stage, and the motives for longer concealment cease to exist. As we ascend the mount of history, and rise above the vapors of party prejudice, we shall all acknowledge that we owe our independence more to John Adams than to any other created being, and that he was the great leader of the American Revolution." On meeting the Senate as their presiding officer, in 1797, Mr. Jefferson remarked that the duties of the chief magistracy had been "justly confided to the eminent character who preceded him-whose talents and integrity have been known and revered by me through a long term of years."

Mr. Jefferson, like Mr. Adams, received a classical education, and studied law with George Wythe 'There are still extant (says Mr. Wirt) a num ber of arguments which were delivered by him at the bar, upon some of the most intricate questions of the law, which will vindicate his claim to the first honors of his profession. It is true, he was not distinguished in popular debate; why be was not so has often been matter of surorise to these who have seen his eloquence on paper and heard it in conversation. He had all the attributes of the mind, and the heart, and the soul, which are essential to eloquence of the highest order. The only defect was a physical one: he wanted volume and compass of voice for a large, deliberative assembly: and his voice, from the excess of his sensibility, instead of rising with his feelings and conceptions. sank under their pressure, and became guttural and inarticulate. The consciousness of this infirmity repressed any attempt in a large body, in which he knew be must fail. But his voice was all-sufficient for the purposes of judicial debate; and there is no reason to doubt that, if the service of his country had not called him away so soon from his profession, his tame as a lawyer would now have stood upon the same distinguished ground which he confessedly occupies as a statesman, an author, and a scholar.

As a member of the Continental Congress he made but few speeches; and when elected President of the United States he introduced the custom of communicating with Congress by message instead of meeting both houses with a speech, as Washington and Adams had done. He disliked form, pomp and parade, and his dress was remarkably plain, and often slovenly. His disposition was cheerful, his

conversation lively and enthusiastic, remarkable for the chastity of his colloquial diction, and the correctness of his phraseology. As a man of letters and a votary of science he acquired high distinc-

New Jersey, and afterwards studied law, which pro-fession he practised in Virginia until called into public life. He was a member of various legislative bodies and conventions, in all of which he distintalents. In the Continental Congress, the convention which framed the constitution, and as a member of Congress under Washington's administration, he took a prominent part, mingling in all the important debates. He had a calm expression of countenance, and was slow and grave in his speech. In deliberative bodies he ac quired self-confidence by slow degrees. His manner was modest and retiring, but in conversation he was pleasing and instructive, having a mind well stored with the treasures of learning, and being particularly familiar with the political world. As a writer he has few equals among American statesmen. Mr. Madison was fond of society, although he had travelled but little-having never visited foreign countries, or seen much of the people and country over which he presided for eight years.

Mr. Monroe was a fine specimen of the old school of Virginia gentlemen—generous, plain, frank, hospitable, and devoted to his country, which he endeavored to serve to the utmost of his ability. He had a collegiate education in Virginia, but joined the standard of his country during the Revolu-tionary war, in the eighteenth year of his age. He afterwards studied law under Mr. Jefferson, who was then Governor of the State and soon after entered public life as a member of the Legislature. As a member of various deliberative bodies, State and national, he took a prominent part, but was not distinguished as a public speaker. While President of the United States he made several tours through the country, on which occasions his speeches in reply to addresses of welcome and congratulation were always dignified and appropriate, without any peculiar marks of eloquence. We heard him address the American Society for the Encouragement of Manufactures while he was in this city in 1817. He spoke in a few brief sentences, appropriate enough to the occasion, but his manner was dull, his voice low and feeble, and his style unattractive. His countenance had no indications of superior intellect, but an honesty and firmness of purpose were apparent, which commanded respect, and gained favor and friendship. He was laborious and industrious in the performance of his public duties, and doubtless compensated in some degree by diligence for slowness of thought and want of im tion. His career as a statesman was highly honorable and useful, and worthy of the admiration he received from his countrymen.

John Quincy Adams is a name familiar to all, as synonymous with a high order of talents, as a scholar, lawyer, dipl matist, and statesman. In Congress, in the sixty-fifth year of his age, he took and maintained the stand to which his eminent talents and previously distinguished services entitled him. He remained in that body for more than sixteen years, until his death, in 1848. He took an active part in debate on nearly every topic of public interest, and his speeches were frequently marked with the most fervid elegenence.

Andrew Jackson had the advantages of only a limited education, studied law in North Carolina, and removed to Tennessee when about twenty-one years of age. He was a short time in Congress, during the administrations of W shington and John Adams, but it is believed that he made no speeches in that body. He afterwards served six years as Judge on the bench of the Supreme Court of Tennessee. - One of his biographers remarks, that "he was not made for what is usually called a first rate lawyer. Yet few, if any, exceeded him in seizing on the strong points of a case, and with vigor and clearness applying to them the great principles of law. As a lawyer he was considered one of the most elequent and effective among his cotemporaries As a judge his opinions were always clear, short, and to the point, aiming at justice, without the affec-

tation of eloquence or of superior learning."

Jackson was elected to the United States Senate in the autumn of 1823, and took his seat in that body in December of that year. He resigned his seat in October, 1825, having taken no part in the debates while a Senator, except, we believe, on one occasion making a few remarks on a military subject. In his manners Jackson was pleasing, in his address commanding, while his countenance, marked with firmness and decision, beamed with strength and in telligence. In his deportment there was nothing repulsive. Easy, affable, and familiar, he was open and accessible to all.

Martin Van Buren received the rudiments of an English education, and became a student in the academy in his native village, which school he left at the age of fourteen, to commence the study of the law-At that very early period he evinced a very strong passion for extempore speaking and literary composition. The period of study preparatory to admission to the bar in the courts of law of this State was then seven years for candidates who, like Van Buren, had not the benefit of a collegiate education.

In the various public stations to which he has been called, as well as an advocate at the bar, Mr. Van Buren has been distinguished as a ready and fluent speaker, and an able writer. "The ease and frankness of his manners," says his blographer, "his felicitous powers of conversation, and the general ami, ableness of his feelings, render him the ornament of the social circle. Uniting in his character firmness and forbearance, self-respect, and a delicate regard for others, he has with equal propriety mingled in the free intercourse of private life and sustained the dignity of official station."

Harrison was educated at Hampden Sidney College, in his native State of Virginia, and afterward applied himself to the study of medicine as a profession. He entered the army at the age of nineteen, and continued in the service six years, when he resigned his commission, and afterwards served as Secretary of the Northwest territory, and delegate to Congress In these and the various public stations to which he was subsequently called he exhibited talents adequate to the performance of his duties. He was a bold and eloquent orator, and has left on record mimerous evidences of his literary acquirements. He had a most intimate knowledge of the history and fore'gn and domestic polity of the United States. and when in Congress he mingled in the most important debates with decided ability. He had a clear sonorous voice, which enabled him to address large assemblages of the people, like the mass meetings during his canvass for the Presidency, with great

John Tyler, as a lawyer of collegiate educa tion, acquired a respectable rank at the Virginia bar, and in deliberative bodies he took a prominent part as a debater of power and elo-quence. He was a member of the Virginia Legislature when a very young man, during the war of 1812, when he spoken often, with the view of impreving his powers of oratory, and the youthful debater had the gratification to find that even in the forum of Virginia, the country of eloquence, his speeches commanded universal attention. In the House of Representatives, and particularly in the Senate of the United States, Mr. Tyler occupied a respectable rank as a leading debater. His manners are plain and affable, and in private life he is amiable, hospitable, and courteous. His errors as a politician are ascribed by the whigs to a want of judgment, to an inordinate vanity and self-conceit, and the influence of bad advice; also, to extreme obstinacy in persisting in opinions once formed, ', without regard to consequences.

Mr. Polk received a classical education, and graduated at the University of North Carolina, in 1818. He studied law in Tennessee with Felix Grundy, and successfully practiced in the profession which has furnished all the Presidents of the United States,